GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:78
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2005
CHILDREN EMPLOYED IN BRICK KILN
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Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a large number of children are employed in brick kilns;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether employment in brick kilns poses any health hazards to the children;

(d) if so, whether such activity of engaging children is illegal in view of the Prevention of Child Labour Act;

(e) if so, the number of complaints received from Human Right Commission as well as Non-Governmental Organisations regarding child labour; State -wise; and

(f) the remedial steps taken by the Government to provide normal life to these children?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO)

(a) to (c): Child labour are found in various occupations in the country including brick kiln. However, occupation-wise data of child labour is not maintained. Working in brick kiln has been identified to be one to the hazardous occupations for the health of children.

(d): Employers found engaging children in identified hazardous occupations are liable to be prosecuted under the provisions of the Act. The Act provides for punishment with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than three months but which may extend to one year or with fine which shall not be less than Rs. 10,000 but which may extend to Rs. 20,000 or with both.

(e): Government has not received any complaint form NHRC. Appropriate authority for implementing the Act is the State Government. Complaints from various sources including NGOs are processed whenever they are received by the State Govt.

(f): National Child Labour Project Scheme is the main scheme for the rehabilitation of child laobur including child labour in brick kiln units. Under the scheme, funds are given to the Project Societies set up at the district level under the Chairmanship of District Magistrate. In the NCLP Scheme, special schools are run for the child workers to provide bridging education before they are mainstreamed into the regular school education system. The Special Schools/Rehabilitation Centres provide following facilities to the children withdrawn from employment:

formal/non-formal education,
vocational training,
supplementary nutrition @ Rs. 5/- per child,
stipend @ Rs 100/- per month to children withdrawn from employment
Heath care facilities.